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# *Lucina ſine Concubitu.*

A

# LETTER

Humbly addreſs'd to the

# *ROYAL SOCIETY.*

( Price One Shilling )

MUSEUM

# *Lucina ſine Concubitu.*

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# LETTER

Humbly addreſs'd to the

# *ROYAL SOCIETY;*

IN WHICH

Is proved by moſt Inconteſtible EVIDENCE, drawn from Reaſon and Practice, that a WOMAN may conceive and be brought to Bed without any Commerce with MAN.

*Ore omnes verſæ in Zephyros ſtant rupibus altis,*
*Exceptantque leves auras, et ſæpe ſine ullis*
*Conjugiis vento gravidæ (mirabile dictu)*
*Saxa per, et ſcopulos et depreſſas convalles*
*Diffugiunt, &c.* VIRG. Georgic. 3.

*Cur ego deſperem fieri ſine conjuge mater,*
*Et parere intacto, dummodo caſta, viro?*
OVID. Faſt. 5.

*Or as other Authors ſing,*
*The frolic Wind that breathes the Spring,*
Zephyr *with* Aurora *playing,*
*As he met her once a Maying,*
*Fill'd her with thee a Daughter fair,*
*So buxom, blithe, and debonnair.*
MILTON's L'Allegro.

The Second EDITION.

*LONDON:*

Printed; And Sold by M. COOPER, at the *Globe*, in *Pater-noſter-Row*. 1750.

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LETTER

FROM A SOCIETY

# A LETTER

Humbly addreſs'd to the

## *ROYAL SOCIETY.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE great Encouragement you ſhew to all learned Inveſtigations of Nature (witneſs thoſe excellent Treatiſes publiſhed every Year in your Philoſophical Tranſactions) emboldens me to lay before you a Diſcovery, which I believe is entirely new, and which I am ſure will equal any thing that has been offered to the World ſince Philoſophy has been a Science. Excuſe my Preſumption, and forbear your Cenſures, till you have read my Narrative. No leſs than

fifteen Years of my Life have been ſpent in bringing this *Arcanum* to a Maturity; and when both Theory and Practice had confirmed me in it, my firſt Thoughts inclined me to go over into *France*, and put up for the Prize at *Bourdeaux*, where Philoſophers ſhew Problems, as Gardeners do Carnations at a Floriſt's Feaſt. But conſidering with myſelf that your illuſtrious Society might probably eſteem yourſelves affronted, if you had not the Maidenhead of my Secret, and at the ſame time diſdaining to come in Competition with the lower Race of Philoſophers, who write about Tides and Eclipſes, and Laws of Gravitation, the trivial Amuſements of idle Speculatiſts, and Almanack-makers! I ſay, out of reverence for your eminent Body, and ſome Degree of Pride in Conjunction, I reſolved to appeal at once to the Public, and more particularly to addreſs myſelf to your Worſhips. Not to keep you any longer in Suſpence, I have found out, and am going to prove by moſt in-

con-

conteſtable Evidence, that a Woman may conceive and be brought to Bed, without any Commerce with Man. This, Gentlemen, I dare ſay, you will allow to be a very wonderful Diſcovery; and though I might eaſily ſatisfy People of your penetrating Inſight into the Works of Nature, with a mere phyſical Account of human Seed, and the Anatomy of a Female Womb, yet as I am to combat the Simplicity of the Ignorant, and the Prejudices of the Perverſe, I will deſcribe at large what firſt ſuggeſted this Thought to me, and how I proceeded afterwards from Conjecture to Demonſtration.

The Lot which Providence aſſigned me in Life, was to practiſe Phyſick in a Country Town; to which I united the Siſterly Science of Man-Midwifry; and though it ill becomes any one to boaſt of his own Merit, yet I will venture to aſſert, that in the Courſe of my Practice, I have helped near as many People into the

World as ever I helped out of it: which rendered my Fame ſo great for obſtetric Operations, that I engroſſed the Cuſtom of all the Breeding Women in the fruitful County of ——. But not to trouble you with more of my private Hiſtory than is neceſſary, as I was ſitting alone one Afternoon, ſmoking my *Poſtmeridian* Pipe, I received a Meſſage from a neighbouring Gentleman, informing me that his Daughter was dangerouſly ill, and deſiring my immediate Attendance. When I was arrived, and had examined the young Lady concerning her Complaints, I was ſurprized to find in her all the Symptoms of Pregnancy; but as I know very well how tenderly Ladies value their Reputations, even after they have loſt them, I withdrew the Father aſide into a ſeparate Room for the Sake of Privacy, and there with great Concern, told him what my Office obliged me to declare, that his Daughter was apparently with Child, and very near the Time

of

of her Labour. The old Gentleman was ſtruck with Horror at the News, and immediately ruſhing into the Chamber, upbraided both his Wife and Daughter in the bittereſt Terms, for concealing ſo important a Secret from him, and bringing ſuch a Diſgrace on the Family. The young Lady turned up a Face of inexpreſſible Innocence and Amazement, and immediately fainted away into her Mother's Arms. 'Tis uſually obſerved, I know, that all Profeſſions which delight in Blood, from the Phyſician down to the Butcher (who are employed to diſburthen Nature of her Numbers, leſt the World ſhould grow too populous) outlive the Senſations of Humanity, and never ſuffer their Minds to be interrupted with Pity: but though I had been long uſed to the Sight of Miſery, and had acquired a ſufficient Conſtancy of Features, there was ſomething in the Scene before me too powerful for Cuſtom, and I really found myſelf inclining to Compaſſion.

But

But the good old Lady ſoon put a Stop to theſe Womaniſh Emotions of my Spirit, falling upon me with the moſt outrageous Abuſe, for *daring to aſperſe her Daughter's Reputation in that wicked ruffianly Manner*, vowing *it was a Lie, a damn'd Lie*, and *ſhe wonder'd her Huſband could hear it without Reſentment*. To all which I replied with ſome Acrimony, that I was not uſed to be treated with ſuch Language, that I knew very well how diſagreeable a Truth it muſt be to a Parent's Ear, but ſince my Office could not protect me from Abuſe, my Honour obliged me to take my Leave: And ſo making a Bow I left the Family to grow calm at Leiſure, not doubting but I ſhould have a ſecond Summons, when they had reaſoned themſelves into Temper. Accordingly a Chariot came to fetch me the next Morning; and though the Mother could hardly bridle in her Paſſion, and the young Lady proteſted every Moment ſhe was innocent, Affairs were now too far advanced

vanced to be concealed, and about Five in the Afternoon, I conducted into the World the little malicious Witneſs, whoſe Evidence was ſo fatal to the young Lady's Character, and ſo neceſſary to the Vindication of mine. Yet ſtill, after this ſeemingly concluſive Conviction, ſhe continued to make the ſame earneſt Declarations to all who viſited her; and one Day as I was ſitting alone with her, after ſhe was pretty well recovered from the Shock of her Delivery, ſhe caught me haſtily by the Hand, and with many Tears, and many Aſſeverations of Innocence, begged of Heaven to blaſt her immediately with Lightning, if ever ſhe had known a Man. Such earneſt Proteſtations, delivered with ſuch an Air of Truth, and accompanied with ſo many moving Tears, wrought upon me ſo ſtrongly, that, I knew not how, I found myſelf ſtrangely inclined to believe her, even againſt the Remonſtrances of Reaſon and Experience. Full of what ſhe had ſaid, I returned Home in a very thoughtful Mood,

and

and continued uneaſy and perplexed for a great while; till one Day happening to take up Mr. *Woollaſton*'s *Religion of Nature delineated*, I fell accidentally upon a Paſſage, which ſtruck ſuch a ſudden Light on my Imagination, that I ſhall beg Leave to quote it at large, as the Ground-work and Foundation of my whole Syſtem.

That great Philoſopher diſputing whether human Souls are traduced from Parents to their Children, or ſupernaturally conveyed into the Fœtus at the Time of its Birth (which is a very worthy Subject of philoſophic Enquiry, becauſe impoſſible to be determined, and much a-kin to that learned Diſquiſition of old,* whether Eggs or

* *Cenſorinus* ſays, many of the old Philoſophers aſſerted the Eternity of the World upon this excellent invincible Argument, *quod negent omnino poſſe reperiri, aveſne ante an ova generata ſint; cum et ovum ſine ave, et avis ſine ovo gigni non poſſit.* This intereſting Queſtion was once much agitated, as may be ſeen

or the Chicken in them are firſt created) in the fifth Section of his incomparable Work has the following remarkable Paſſage:——— " If then the Semina out of " which Animals are produced, are (as I " doubt not) Animalcula already formed; " which being diſtributed about, eſpecial- " ly in ſome opportune Places, are taken " in with Aliment, or perhaps the very " Air; being ſeparated in the Bodies of " Males by Strainers proper to every " Kind, and then lodged in their ſeminal " Veſſels do there receive ſome kind of " Addition and Influence; and then be- " ing transferred into the Wombs of the " Females, are there nouriſhed more plen- " tifully, and grow too big to be longer " confined: I ſay if this be the Caſe, &c." And again, " I cannot but conclude that " there are Animalcula of every Tribe

 " originally

ſeen by *Macrobius* and *Plutarch*, who calls it τὸ ἄπορον καὶ πολλὰ πρόγμαλα τοῖς ζητητικοῖ πρόχον πρόβλημα.

" originally formed by the almighty Pa-
" rent, to be the Seed of all future Ge-
" nerations; and it is certain the Analogy
" of Nature in other Inſtances, and mi-
" croſcopical Obſervations, do ſtrongly
" abet what I have ſaid."——Theſe are the Words of the great and learned Mr. *Woollaſton*, which I had no ſooner read, than I was inſtantly thrown into a *Reverie*, and began to reflect with myſelf, that if ſuch little Embryos or *Animalcula* are ſo diſperſed about, and taken in at the Mouth with Air or Aliment; and if nothing more is required than a certain hot Bed for them to dilate and expand themſelves, till they grow too big to be longer confined, after the Manner of Seeds in a Cucumber-Frame: I ſay, if this be the whole Myſtery of Generation (and Experiment has ſince fully convinced me that it is ſo) I began to queſtion, why might not the Fœtus be as compleatly hatched in the ſeminal Veſſels of the Woman, as when it paſſes through the Organs of both Sexes?

Sexes? Why ſhould the *Animalculum* or little Animal go ſuch a tedious Progreſs, make ſuch a round-about Tour, when there is ſo much nearer a Road, ſo much ſhorter a Cut into Day-light? As to what the great Philoſopher mentions of Strainers in the Bodies of Males, that was plainly owing to his Want of Skill in Anatomy; and the only Doubt now remaining with me was, whether Animalcula did really float about in the Air, and ſlide down the Throat as he deſcribed? for I had been uſed to think they were originally lodged in the Loins of the Males; But if Mr. *Woollaſton*'s Hypotheſis could be proved, the Conſequence, I thought, would then be eaſy and undeniable. Here again I was at a Stand; all before me was Darkneſs and Doubt; I knew not if there were any ſuch Animalcula, or if there were, I ſuppoſed them too ſmall to be diſcovered by the naked Eye, and tho' perhaps they might be diſcernible with the Help of a Microſcope, yet I knew

not where to ſeek for thoſe *opportune Places*, hinted at by the great Metaphyſician.

In this ſecond Perplexity, Fortune again ſtept in to my Aſſiſtance, and my Doubts were unriddled by the following Paſſage in *Virgil's Georgicks:*

*Ore omnes verſæ in Zephyros ſtant rupibus altis,*
*Exceptantq; leves auras; et ſæpe ſine ullis*
*Conjugiis vento gravidæ (mirabile dictu)*
*Saxa per et ſcopulos et depreſſas convalles*
*Diffugiunt; non Eure tuos, neque Solis ad ortus,*
*In Boream Caurumque, aut unde nigerrimus Auſter*
*Naſcitur, et pluvio contriſtat frigore cælum.*

Thus

Thus tranſlated by Mr. *Dryden*;

*The Mares to Cliffs of rugged Rocks repair,*
*And with wide Noſtrils ſnuff the weſtern Air:*
*When (wondrous to relate) the Parent Wind,*
*Without the Stallion, propagates the Kind.*
*Then fir'd with amorous Rage, they take their Flight*
*Thro' Plains, and mount the Hill's unequal Height.*
*Nor to the North, nor to the riſing Sun,*
*Nor Southward to the rainy Regions run,*
*But boring to the Weſt, and hov'ring there,*
*With gaping Mouths they draw prolific Air.*

Now it is well known that this ſame *Virgil* was a great Natural Philoſopher, as well as a Poet and a Farrier; and here we ſee he confidently aſſerts, that it was very common for Mares to become pregnant, without any Coition, only by turning their

their Faces to the Weſt, and ſnuffing up the Wind in that Quarter: But all Naturaliſts being agreed that there is a great Analogy and Similitude in the Generation of all Animals, whether Bipeds or Quadrupeds, it occurred to me, that what had happened to a Mare, might for this very Reaſon, happen to a Woman.

Thus was I got ſucceſsfully through two Steps of my Diſcovery: The great *Woollaſton* has told me, that Animalcula were diſperſed about in *opportune Places*, to be the Seed of all Generations; and the greater *Virgil* had told me, that certain Mares of his Acquaintance were were impregnated by a Weſt Wind, which therefore I concluded to be one of thoſe *opportune Places*, and conſidered it as the proper Vehicle of theſe floating Embryos.

But not willing to rely on Hypotheſis only, or preſume on the Authority of great

grear Names, eſpecially in this enlightened Age, where experimental Philoſophy is ſo triumphant, and nothing goes down that is not made obvious to our Senſes, I reſolved to have Demonſtration before I ventured to publiſh my Thoughts to the World. There are, I know, a droll Set of Gentlemen, who think themſelves authorized to tell any Lies in Print, and afterwards to quarrel with the World for not believing them: But for my Part, I write purely and ſimply for the Love of Truth, for the Uſe and Emolument of my Countrymen; and I ſhould eſteem myſelf the moſt unworthy of all Beings, if I preſumed to amuſe them with Fables, or abuſe them with Forgeries.

Accordingly after much Exerciſe of my Invention, I contrived a wonderful cylindrical, catoptrical, rotundo-concavo-convex Machine (whereof a very exact Print will ſpeedily be publiſhed for the Satisfaction of the Curious, deſigned by Mr.

Mr. *H——y—n*, and engraved by Mr. *V—rtu)* which being hermetically ſealed at one End, and electrified according to the niceſt Laws of Electricity, I erected it in a convenient Attitude to the Weſt, as a kind of Trap to intercept the floating Animalcula in that prolific Quarter of the Heavens. The Event anſwered my Expectation; and when I had caught a ſufficient Number of theſe ſmall, original, unexpanded Minims of Exiſtence, I ſpread them out carefully like Silk-worm's Eggs upon White-Paper, and then applying my beſt Microſcrope, plainly diſcerned them to be little Men and Women, exact in all their Limbs and Lineaments, and ready to offer themſelves little Candidates for Life, whenever they ſhould happen to be imbibed with Air or Nutriment, and conveyed down into the Veſſels of Generation.

After this firſt Succeſs in my Undertaking, I continued to make Experiments of

of various Kinds, too tedious to be related, for a whole Year, till I had at length fully eſtabliſhed the Doctrine of Winds and Embryos: and I find that as other Inſects are uſually brought by an Eaſterly Wind, your *Human Inſects* are always wafted from the oppoſite Quarter: the Swarms of both appear like Blights to the naked Eye, and both ſeem deſtined to much the ſame End of Exiſtence, *fruges conſumere nati*, born to conſume the Fruits of the Ground.

Oftentimes, while I was viewing them through my Glaſs, my Imagination wou'd turn romantic upon the Subject, and repreſent to me the great Variety of Fortune theſe Inſects might go through, whenever they ſhould happen to be called out into Day-light. I ſaid in my Mind, this little Reptile may be an *Alexander*, that a *Fauſtina*, another a *Tully*, and another a Mountebank; and I was ſtruck with Admiration to conſider how many

Heroes, and Patriots, and Legiſlators, and Monarchs, were now contained on a Sheet of Paper, whoſe great Souls in Time to come, may make them eſteem the whole World too confined a Scene for their Ambition. I remembered the Sarcaſm of *Juvenal*, as true before Life as after Death, *Expenden Annibalem*, &c. and I repeated with a kind of Enthuſiaſm thoſe excellent Lines in Dr. *Garth*'s *Diſpenſary*;

*Now ſhe unfolds the faint and dawning Striſe*
*Of infant Atoms kindling into Life;*
*How the dim Speck of Entity began*
*To extend its recent Form, and ſtretch to Man;*
*To how minute an Origin we owe*
*Young* Ammon, Cæſar, *and the great* Naſſau.

But now the great Trial of all was come, which I believe would have puzzled a whole College of Phyſicians, and ſet at nought all the conſulting Powers of *W—rw—k-Lane*. The preparatory Points were eſtabliſhed to my entire Satisfaction, but

but whether *Animalcula* could be ripen'd into Exiſtence by paſſing through the ſeminal Veſſels of a Woman only, was ſtill a Queſtion; and how to make the Experiment, *hic labor, illud opus.* Very hard it was to know when a Woman had imbibed the neceſſary Seed, and harder ſtill to reſtrain her from all Commerce with Man, till the Experiment had Time to take Effect. If I made Choice of a married Woman, there the Difficulties were innumerable; or if I made Choice of a Maiden, Virginity has in all Ages been eſteemed a very brittle Ware, and I preſume has not greatly mended its Nature of later Days. Sometimes I thought of taking a Wife, over whom I could uſurp an abſolute Authority, and lock her up till the Day of her Labour; but fearing ſhe might grow deſperate, when ſhe ſhou'd find I had only married her to try an Experiment upon her, and at the ſame time grievouſly miſtruſting the Continuance of my own Affection, after I had ac-

compliſhed my Ends, I diſmiſſed that Project, and reſolved, after much Perplexity, to hazard all upon a Chambermaid. Accordingly having firſt perſwaded the Girl ſhe was ill, I read *Jacob Behmen* five Times over, and then mixing up ſome *Animalcula* in a Chymical Preparation, I adminiſter'd them to her as a Doſe of Phyſick. After which I diſcarded my Footman, and ſuffer'd no Male Creature in human Shape to approach my Doors; nay ſo great was my Caution to have my Stratagem ſucceed, that I hardly permitted a Dog of the maſculine Gender to enter my Houſe.

In about ſix Months it was very viſible the Medicine had taken Effect, and let the Reader imagine if he can, the Joy I felt, when firſt I perceived her begin to bourgeon: At the ſame time too a little Circumſtance happened, which heightened my Joy, and put the manner of her Conception beyond all Poſſibility of doubt. As I was ſitting alone one Morning in my Study,

Study, ruminating on this great Event, the Girl came in to me with Tears in her Eyes, and having obtained my Leave to aſk a Queſtion, entreated me earneſtly to tell her, *if it was poſſible to breed after three Years?* Though I gueſſed the Drift of her Queſtion, yet affecting an Air of Ignorance, and putting on a grave Phyſician's Aſpect, I ordered her to be more explicit; whereupon ſhe proceeded, with frequent Breaks of Crying, to tell me how much ſhe was aſtoniſhed at ſome Symptoms, that *Heaven above knew what was the Matter with her, but ſhe verily believed herſelf a breeding*, and yet *ſhe could take her Bible Oath, ſhe had not been —— —— been—been touched by a Man for theſe three Years.** —— So then, ſaid I, with a ſtern-

er

* When I wrote this, I had not ſeen a remarkable Caſe publiſhed in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions* of *September*, of a Woman, from whom a Fœtus was extracted, that had been lodged thirteen Years in the *Fallopian* Tubes, ſent from *Riga* by Dr. *James Mounſey*, Phyſician to the *Czarina's* Army, together with

the

er Countenance and a Tone of Severity, You confeſs then that about three Years ago, you was guilty of Incontinency!—*Yes Sir*, replied ſhe, *to be ſure it would be a Folly to deny it to a Man of your Learn-*

the Bones of the ſaid Fœtus, as a Preſent to the *Royal Society* of *London*. The Woman, as we are told in that ingenious Treatiſe, was a Soldier's Wife of *Abo* in *Finland*, *of a middle Stature*, who being pregnant for the third Time in the Year 1730, was afflicted with violent Pains and Twiſtings of the Bowels, *&c.*—and continuing ſickly for ten Years afterwards, in the Month of *September* 1741, ſhe pierced her Navel with an Awl, out of which ran a yellow-coloured Water, *&c.*—In the Month of *June* two ſmall Bones came out, *&c.* and in *October* 1742, ſhe was taken in Hand by Dr. *Mounſey* and Mr. *Geitle* Surgeon, who thruſt a grooved Probe into the *Fiſtula*, and made an Inciſion with a Biſtory, upwards and obliquely, from the *Linea alba*, into the Cavity of the *Abdomen*; but the Woman being unruly (as well ſhe might) and the Operation not going on according to the Doctor's liking, he proceeded no farther till the next Day, *&c.* At the next Operation the Inciſion was carried downwards, *&c.* but Care taken not to make the external Wound larger than needful, leſt the *Omentum* and Guts ſhould fall out, *&c.*—In ſhort, the Fœtus was at length

*Learning* —— *to be ſure I muſt confeſs that about three Years ago—to be ſure Sir, I was not quite ſo good, Sir, as I ſhould have been, Sir.—My laſt Maſter, Sir, who was a Parſon, Sir,—God forgive him and me too,——I am ſure, I have repented it a hundred Times, and I hope he has done the ſame.* —— The courteous Reader, I hope, will pardon my deſcending to ſuch low Particulars, which I confeſs are beneath the Dignity of a Philoſopher; but as it very much concerns me, in

length extracted Piece-meal at ſeveral difficult Operations. Now comparing all theſe Circumſtances together, it ſeems reaſonable to believe that this Fruit never was in the Cavity of the Womb, but that the impregnated *Ovum* was ſtopt in its Paſſage through one of the *Fallopian* Tubes, where it grew and was detained ſo many Years. Nothing therefore can be concluded from hence againſt the Cauſe I have aſſigned of my Maid's Pregnancy (as a certain learned Gentleman of the *Royal Society*, who communicated this Story to me, ſeemed to imagine) for the Caſes are very different, and the uncommon Delay of this *Finland* Woman's Delivery was owing to the præternatural Situation of the Fœtus.

in an Affair of ſuch Moment and Importance to the World, to ſhew how regularly and cautiouſly I proceeded, it was neceſſary to deſcribe the Girl's Simplicity as a Proof her Honeſty. Authors who write only for the Amuſement of Mankind, may chuſe and omit Circumſtances at their own Pleaſure, according to the Rule of *Horace*

— — — *Quæ*
*Deſperes tractata niteſcere poſſe, relinquas.*

But we who are unfortunately tied down to Truth, muſt write as it were in Fetters, and are obliged to keep on in the direct Road, without the Privilege of turning aſide to entertain ourſelves with Proſpects. Be it ſufficient, however, to ſay, that at the nine Months End, the Girl was delivered of a chopping Boy, whom I have ever ſince educated as my own, ſpite of all the Calumny of the Neighbourhood; and I cannot doubt, but in time he

he will riſe to be a Judge or an Alderman.

Thus, Gentlemen of the R—l S——y, I hope I have proved in the moſt inconteſtable manner, that a Woman may conceive without any Commerce with Man; that the World has been in an Error for ſix thouſand Years, and probably would have continued in it ſix thouſand more, if I had not been born on purpoſe to break thro' ſilly Prejudices of Education, and undeceive Mankind in ſo material a Point. Material I muſt call it; for how different is this from all the Diſcoveries of *Iſaac Newton* the Star-gazer? His, all of them, end in Speculation, but mine extend to Practice; his are only calculated for the Peruſal of a few College-Pedants, but mine offer themſelves to the World in general: And I ſhall ſhortly publiſh a large Volume to ſhew that this is the moſt natural Way of being born, grounding my Demonſtration on the following infallible Argument, which I have drawn up ſyllogiſtically

giſtically, to prove my wonderful Talents in Logic.

* Nature (ſay certain Authors of great Erudition) is a very frugal old Lady, and a prodigious good Oeconomiſt: She is obſerved to give herſelf as little Trouble as ſhe can, and to do every thing at the cheapeſt hand.

But *Animalcula* may be hatched as compleatly in a Female Womb, as when they take the more tedious Progreſs thro' the Loins of the Males alſo.

*Ergo*, That is the right Road into Life, which is the ſhorteſt Road.

And now——what ſhall I ſay next? As it often happens that the Uſe and Practice of a Thing are known, before the Theory of it is diſcovered, (for Inſtance, Men of War

* This is a Method much practiſed by the learned Mr. *W—rb—n*, I ſuppoſe for the ſame Reaſon, to ſhew his Skill in chopping Logic.

War could batter down Towns with Bombs long before it was proved that Projectiles deſcribe a parabolic Curve, and little Boys had amuſed themſelves with the Shadows of a magic Lanthorn many a Day ere ſome great Philoſophers undertook to explain the Myſteries of that wonderful Machine) ſo has it fallen out in the Subject now under our Conſideration: Hiſtory has here and there furniſhed an Example, and ſome Phyſicians of Antiquity have accidentally glanced upon the Subject; but ſtill I think I may challenge to myſelf the Merit of an original Invention, and it would be very hard if a few Hints looſely dropt in old unfaſhionable Authors, which too I never ſaw till after I had eſtabliſhed my Theory, ſhould prevail ſo far as to fix upon me the odious Scandal of Plagiariſm. There are, I know, a Sort of malevolent Readers, who take an infinite Pleaſure in telling you that all Authors have ſtolen their Works ſince the Days of one *Orpheus*; and how lucky is it for that old

*French* Poet, that we know not the Names of any of his Predeceſſors? but more eſpecially they have recourſe to this Device, whenever they find it not quite ſo eaſy to anſwer the Doctrine of a Book, and yet are determined to cry down its Reputation: Then we are ſure to hear, *Lord Sir! the Fellow ſtole it all; there is not a Page, nor a Line, nor a Word, nor a Syllable, nor a Letter, nor a Comma of it his own; I can turn to the very Book and Place, from whence he pilfer'd it all.* Now that I may anticipate this heavy Cenſure, and ſave certain ingenious Critics the Trouble of turning back to the good old Writer (Peace unto his *Manes*, whoever he be) from whom I tranſcribed this little Treatiſe, I have determined to produce of my own accord what few Paſſages I have accidentally met with upon this Subject, and afterwards I ſhall leave the World to decide, whether in ſpite of ſuch occaſional Hints, I may not ſtill be allowed to be the ſole Proprietor of this wonderful Hypotheſis.

*Galen,*

*Galen*, in his celebrated Treatiſe upon the Meaſles, wherein he endeavours to account for the Origin of that Diſtemper, delivers it as a common Opinion, that it was brought into the World by a Woman, born without the Aſſiſtance of a Father; but he ſeems to treat this as a vulgar Fable, and calls it a *Notion of the Multitude*.

*Hippocrates* informs us, that his Mother uſed frequently to tell him, ſhe had no carnal Intercourſe with his Father for near two Years before his Birth, but that ſhe found herſelf ſtrangely influenced one Evening, as ſhe was walking in a Garden. His Father obtained a Divorce on this Occaſion, and the good Woman fell under the Reproach of all her Acquaintance: But I hope this Treatiſe will vindicate her Memory from the Infamy, which has ever ſince attended it through all ſucceeding Times.

If we look back to the fabulous Ages of the World, when every thing was aggrandized by poetic Ornament, we read of many ancient Ladies, got with Child by ſuch impoſſible Methods, that I believe they muſt have owed their Pregnancy to what I have been deſcribing, and I hope all Commentators and Mythologiſts will for the future fall in with my Explication. For what elſe are we to think of *Juno*'s growing big-bellied only with eating a Piece of Cabbage, † which *Flora* gathered for her in the *Olenian* Fields? 'Tis plain ſhe muſt have ſwallowed ſome Animalcula at the ſame time, and thus became with Child of *Mars*. How elſe are we to account for the odd Conception of *Danae* in her Impriſonment? Some old Oracle

† *Quod petis, Oleniis, inquam, mihi miſſus ab arvis*
*Flos dabit; eſt hortis unicus ille meis.*
*Protinus hærentem decerpſi pollice florem*
*Fitque potens voti, Marsque creatus erat.*
Ovid. Faſt. 5.

Oracle had foretold, that her Father *Acriſius* ſhould have his Throat cut by a Grandſon, and to defeat this Prediction, he locked up his only Daughter in a brazen Tower, under ſuch cloſe Confinement, that it was impoſſible for any thing but Wind to get Acceſs to her; yet in theſe Circumſtances the Lady was brought to Bed of the moſt mighty *Perſeus*, who accompliſhed the Oracle in putting *Acriſius* to death. The Poets indeed tell us a ſtrange improbable Story of *Jupiter*'s raining himſelf thro' the Tiles of the Houſe in a golden Shower; but this is plainly a poetic Fiction, invented to account for a puzzling Phænomenon.

The Story of *Boreas*' running away with a young Heireſs out of a Garret Window, and getting her with Child (as *Ovid* deſcribes it in his *Metamorphoſis)* is more immediately to our Purpoſe, and directly points out the Manner of her Conception. We all know, that 'tis the Profeſſion of

Poetry

Poetry to perſonalize all its Objects, and if a Lady found herſelf impregnated with Wind, nothing was ſo natural as to make a God of that Element, and impute the Effects to ſupernatural ‡ Power: tho' I confeſs there is an Impropriety here according to my Syſtem, but that may be owing to the Looſeneſs of poetic Deſcription, or perhaps the Lady miſtook the Quarter of the Wind in telling her Story. In general we may conclude, whenever we read of Virgins got with Child by Rivers, by Dragons, by golden Showers, *&c.* *&c.* that it was Wind, nothing in the World but Wind, only for want of knowing the real Cauſe, they were glad to aſſign imaginary ones; and the Poets getting hold of ſuch improveable Topics, ſo overloaded them with Additions of their own, that

‡ In this manner we muſt interpret what *Ovid* puts into the Mouth of *Flora*, where ſhe tells us ſhe was raviſhed by *Zephyrus*,

*Ver erat, errabam; Zephyrus conſpexit, abibam:*
*Inſequitur, fugio: fortior ille fuit.*

Lib. V. Faſt. 201. et dehinc.

that in the End they were all conſidered in the Light of Fable and Romance.

If we deſcend from theſe allegoric Ages to ſucceeding Times, when Hiſtory had learnt a more ſober Style, and was contented to tell Truth without Diſguiſe, we ſhall find ſome few Examples here alſo to our Purpoſe. *Diodorus Siculus* informs us, in an old Edition of his Works, communicated to me by my learned and induſtrious Friend the Rev. Dr. *T---- r*, that a certain Sorcereſs of *Egypt*, pretended, among other ſupernatural Claims, to be able to breed without the Help of Man, and under Colour of theſe Pretences would have perſwaded People to believe her the celebrated *Iſis*, returned to viſit her native Country; but at laſt a Prieſt of *Taautus* or *Mercury* was found in Bed with her, and ſo the Affair was at an End.

*Polybius* has a Story more explicitly to our Purpoſe, but he ſpeaks of it with ſo

much diſtruſt himſelf, that I will not venture to produce it, leſt it ſhould give an Air of Romance to this Performance †.

Among the *Roman* Hiſtorians I can only produce an Example from *Livy*, of a Woman who was reported to have been delivered of Twins in a deſolate uninhabited Iſland, where ſhe was caſt away, and had not ſeen a human Face for the Space of nine Years before her Labour. He tells us ſhe was brought to *Rome*, and examined before the *Roman* Senate; but the Particulars of this Story are ſo very prolix and tedious, that I chuſe to refer the Reader to the Original, in the fiftieth Book of that incomparable Hiſtorian.

This

† Θεωρων δε τυς Κελτυς δυσκερανονλας, κ. τ. λ.
*Polyb. Lib.* III. pag. 230.

This is all I have been able to meet with in my reading; which I was willing to produce, as it may give ſome Light and Confirmation to my Hypotheſis; but I appeal to the illuſtrious Mr. *W——rb—n*, that great Decider of old Problems and modern Controverſies, who well knows the Zeal of Authors to have their Works thought original, whether notwithſtanding any thing here quoted, the Merit of this great *Arcanum* does not of right belong to me? I mention that Gentleman's Name, who now unqueſtionably ſtands foremoſt in the Catalogue of *Britiſh* Writers, with the moſt profound Reſpect; and it would afford me infinite Pleaſure, if he would give this Subject a Diſcuſſion in the next Volume of the *Divine L—g—n*, whenever he pleaſes to oblige the World with that long-expected Work: Or if by Chance he ſhould happen not to have

Room for it, being already furniſhed with his Complement of Digreſſions (and to be ſure one Book can hardly contain every thing) ſtill I have the Vanity to expect a Letter from him by the firſt Poſt to thank me according to Cuſtom, for the honorable Mention I have made of him, and with ſome Compliments on my Performance, to make an Overture of his Acquaintance.

It now remains, before I conclude, to explain the great Advantages that will flow from the Publication of this Treatiſe; for this it is, which muſt redeem me from the reproachful Name of a Projector, and rank me in the Number of thoſe illuſtrious Worthies, who have invented uſeful Arts for the better Accommodation and Happineſs of human Life.*

And

* *Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes.* VIRG. Quoted for the Sake of a Quotation.

And in the firſt Place, I hope I ſhall merit univerſally the Thanks of all the Fair Sex for diſabuſing Mankind on the Subject of Conception, and teaching them how a Woman may be with Child in a ſingle State, conſiſtently with the pureſt Virtue.

*Cur ego deſperem fieri ſine Conjuge Mater,*
*Et parere intacto, dummodo caſta, viro?*

But before this was known, when the World was fooliſh enough to ſuppoſe Coition always previous to Conception, how many Ladies have innocently loſt their Reputation? how many unhappy Creatures have fallen under the Cenſures of a malicious World, been excluded from Viſits, left out of Card-Parties, and pointed at by Prudes, only for the ſlight Inconvenience of happening to be brought to Bed before Marriage?

riage? Whereas, when once this Diſcovery is ſpread, it will be eaſy for a young Lady to loſe her Maidenhead without loſſing her Character, and to *take the Air* without any Dread of Calumny and Reproach in Conſequence of ſo innocent a Gratification.

*Jam redit et virgo, redeunt Saturnia regna,*
*Jam nova progenies cælo demittitur alto.*

Another great Benefit, reſulting from this Diſcovery, will be the utter Abolition of Matrimony, which has long been complained of by all the polite World, as a Nuſance grievous and intolerable, inconſiſtent with all the Articles of modern Pleaſure, and deſtructive of that Freedom which of Right belongs to Gentlemen. In conſequence whereof, we ſee Dukes and Dutcheſſes, Lords and Ladies, and all the Great, whoring, divorcing, poiſoning

ing one another, ſtarving one another, cutting one another's Throats, and practiſing every other genteel faſhionable Art to break looſe from their Fetters, and reſcue themſelves from this worſe than *Egyptian* Bondage. Now as I am a moſt devoted Admirer of the Great, apt to eſteem every thing wiſe, lawful and right, that comes from the Mouth of a Nobleman, I account myſelf happy to be Author of a Scheme, that falls in ſo naturally with their Deſires, and will deliver them from that moſt pernicious Inſtitution, ſupported by no other Authority than that of the Scriptures, an Authority long obſolete and out of Date with the politer Part of Mankind! And as I cannot doubt but all Women for the future will chuſe to propagate the Species upon the Plan here recommended, I can aſſure them for their Comfort, that their Satisfaction will be as great in this Way as in the ordinary and coarſer

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coarſer Communication with Man: which indeed the Fondneſs that Ladies have always expreſſed for *Zephyrs*, abundantly proves, though hitherto they have been ignorant of the Cauſe of the agreeable Senſations excited by that amorous Wind.

But the moſt capital Advantage of all remains yet to be told, and in deſcribing of this I muſt exalt my Style:

—— *Major rerum mihi naſcitur ordo,*
*Majus opus moveo.*

There is a certain Diſtemper moſt fatally epidemic, which has much employed the Speculation, and more the Practice of Mankind. Whether with Phyſicians we call it the *Lues Venerea*, with 'Pothecaries the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, with Ladies the *French Diſtemper*, or with fine Gentlemen the *P—x*; it is known by all theſe De-

Denominations, beſides an infinite Number of inferior Titles, that mark the ſeveral Stages of this puiſſant, deſtroying Peſtilence.

—— — *Nomina mille,*
*Mille nocendi artes.*

Some tell you that *Columbus* brought it over from his new *American* World in a Ban-box, and that is nothing more than the Yaws operating differently upon *European* Conſtitutions †. Others are contented to go no farther for it than *France*, and very confidently aſſure us, that it was

G im-

† However ſome People may contend for the modern Introduction of this Diſtemper, I am perſwaded it is as old as the Days of *Hercules*, and that this illuſtrious Giant-killer was infected with it. The envenomed Shirt of *Neſſus*, and the Torments he ſuffered by putting it on, are plainly a Poetick Allegory, which I interpret in the following eaſy Manner.— *Neſſus* p--x'd his Whore, and ſhe p---x'd *Hercules*.

imported hither among other elegant Accompliſhments, for which we have been indebted to that Land of Luxury and Refinement. But though its Origin be doubtful and uncertain, its Atchievements are unqueſtionably ſure; and, oh, that I had the Pen of *Fracaſtorius* to deſcribe the Ravage it commits upon a human Body! Lend, lend me Aſſiſtance all ye battered Rakes, while with blackeſt Ink I undertake to paint the Havocks of that honourable Diſeaſe, of which thouſands of your Forefathers have died, and whereof yourſelves ſo vain-gloriouſly boaſt in Taverns and Coffee-houſes, to the great Advancement of Virtue and Morality. Say, illuſtrious —— and —— and ——, for ye know, with what fatal Rapidity its Venom over-runs the Conſtitution, how it undermines the Teeth, unhinges the Noſe, ſoddens the Fleſh, ſtrikes Rottenneſs to the Bones, and poiſons the very ſpinal Marrow. Say, farther, moſt en-

enviable Sons of Pleaſure! for this alſo Experience may have taught you, how it ſpreads by Contagion, and operates by Communication. Some Huſbands give it their Wives, and ſome Wives give it their Huſbands. Nor does the Evil end with Life, but revives again in the Poſterity, is *entailed* on the Heirs of great Families, inherited in ſure Succeſſion, and oftentimes, too often, proves the only thing that is inherited by Heirs of noble, but corrupted Blood. Hence ariſes an enervated Progeny, weak in their Perſons, and weaker in their Underſtandings; a puny, ill-compounded, unmanly Race, who bear about them the Marks of their Father's Wickedneſs in moſt legible Characters, and though liable to be blown away by every Blaſt of Wind, have the Arrogance to ſtrut through the *Mall* with Swords by their Sides, and fancy themſelves Men. Alas! their Mother's Chambermaids wou'd make better Men.

*Non his juventus orta parentibus*
*Infecit æquor ſanguine Gallico.*

Now this Diſtemper, ſo terrible in its Effects, and ſo pernicious in its Conſequences, has been attacked for many Centuries by all the *Eſculapian* Art in vain; † *Mercury* has exhauſted all its fruitleſs Powers; Salivations exerted their cleanſing influence without Effect, and the mighty *Ward* with his illuſtrious Pill ſits deſpairing in an Elbow-chair at *Whitehall*, to find himſelf defeated by this invincible Diſeaſe. But what neither phyſical Preſcriptions, nor chirurgical Operations, what neither Empirics with their Pills, nor Graduates of the Faculty with their Purges, have been able to accompliſh; I pretend to perform in a ſafe, eaſy, effectual manner, *(abſit ſuperbia dicto)* and for ever to drive

† *Cæſar* tells us our old *Britiſh* Anceſtors worſhiped *Mercury* above all the Gods, *Deum maxime Mercurium colunt*, &c. Their modern Deſcendants ſtill worſhip the ſame Deity.

drive out the P---x from his Majeſty's Dominions. If all in female Shape (for I dare not call them all Women) will agree to ſeclude themſelves from the foul Embraces of Men for one Year (which I account a very modeſt Propoſal, as I offer them a better Gratification in lieu of what they are to forfeit) this ruinous Plague muſt ceaſe from among us. And I humbly recommend it, with all due Submiſſion, to the Judgment and Conſideration of the moſt honourable the L---ds of the P. C. whether a R---l Edict would not be well employ'd, to forbid all Copulation throughout the Kingdom for the Space of one whole Year, beginning from *Lady-day* next, in order to ſtop the Growth and Increaſe of a Contagion much more fatal than that which now ſweeps away our horned Cattle, and equally deſerving the Interpoſition of Authority.

But Objectors ſtill may be apt to queſtion, whether your *double-diſtill'd* Children,

dren, who paſs thro' the ſeminal Veſſels of both Sexes in the old way of Generation, are not of courſe more healthy and vigorous, than your ſingle-diſtill'd Infants will be, who are to receive only the Nurture of a female Womb? In Confutation of which ſilly Prejudice, tho' I could produce ſeveral very cogent Arguments from the Depth of Philoſophy, yet I chuſe to anſwer this Query by another, Whether the preſent Race of Fathers, eſpecially thoſe in high Life, under the Circumſtances I have deſcribed, are qualify'd to beget Children at all? But when Women are left to breed of themſelves, and the Venereal Diſeaſe is baniſhed from among us, we may then hope to ſee an Offspring robuſt and healthy; *Britiſh* Valour will then recover its ancient Glory; new *Creſſys*, new *Agincourts*, new *Blenheims* ſucceed to grace our Annals,

*Nor* Henry *be the laſt that conquers* France.

Wherefore

Wherefore not doubting but my Scheme will immediately take place, I ſhall apply very ſoon for a Patent to ſecure to myſelf the ſole Advantage of this Diſcovery, and in the mean time I have taken a Houſe in the *Hay-market*, *dans la marché au foin*, where I ſhall give Attendance to all Women deſirous of breeding, from the Hours of Seven or Eight in the Evening till Twelve at Night; and if they will quietly ſubmit themſelves to my Experiment, I will enſure their Pregnancy at the proper Time, calculating from the Hour they did me the Favour of their Viſit. Let them conſider that the Glory and Intereſt of *Great Britain are now incumbent upon them*, that it is in their Power to raiſe our Vigour, and as I may ſay, to mend the Breed of *Engliſhmen*. In ſo doing their Names will be recorded in Hiſtory, as the illuſtrious Propagators of Heroiſm, the Founders of a new Sect of Men, and be handed down to Poſteriey equally famous with

with the *Spartan* and *Roman* Ladies, whoſe many gallant Atchievements for the Good of their Countries in Times of Diſtreſs, engaged Poets and Hiſtorians in their Praiſe.

But principally and earneſtly I addreſs myſelf to you, Gentlemen of the R—l S—y, *who ſhine in the Dignity of F. R. S.* and I hope you will recommend this Treatiſe to the World with all the Warmth and Zeal, that becomes the Promoters of uſeful Knowledge, the Patrons of Learning, the Judges of Science, and the Inveſtigators of Truth.

I am, Gentlemen, with all poſſible Reſpect, Deference, Submiſſion and Veneration,

Your moſt obedient, humble,

devoted Servant,

ABRAHAM JOHNSON.

*FINIS.*